(h) whether anybody has offered so far to take on lease the Potteries, and if so under what terms

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) The Factory is in charge of a Foreman who is a Licensed Mechanical Engineer and who was trained under the late expert Mr. C. V. Balappa.

For purposes of administration it is under the charge of the P. W. D.

(b) Fire-bricks and Minton tiles.

(c) Principally stoneware pipes, glazed jars, and fire-bricks.

(d) The expert who designed the kiln is no longer in the service and the trials of the late expert Mr. Balappa made for the manufacture of pipes were not reported to have been a success. The work has however since been continued and the efforts made have been reasonably satisfactory.

(e) Vide answer to (d).

(f) No.

(g) & (h). No definite offer has been received as yet. One Mr. E. J. Smith of Calicut visited the Potteries and enquired whether they would be leased to him. He was told that Government will be prepared to lease the Potteries on payment per mensem Rs. 3,500 plus Fire Insurance of the building estimated to cost 2 lakhs of rupees. No reply was received from him afterwards.

Working of the Potteries and the Tanneries.

241. Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Will the Government be pleased to inform:—

(a) whether the question of the future working of the Chalakkudi Pottery and Tanneries has been engaging their attention ; and if so

(b) whether they do not consider the suspension from work of these two Industrial concerns will, in the long run, ruin the machinery and the buildings and depreciate the already deplorable value the Government have received for their money ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) The work in the Potteries has not been suspended. The machinery is being made use of and looked after properly.

In regard to the Tanneries Government are considering the question of lease of the Factory.

Nelliampathi Ghat Road.

242. Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Will the Government be pleased to inform the progress so far made as regards the opening of the new Nelliampathi Ghat Road and what more time it may take for the completion of the work ?

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